

Remarks

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application.

According to the Office action, restriction has been required to one of the following groups:

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| Group I | Claims 1-21, drawn to a composition, classified in class 522, subclass 109. |
| Group II | Claims 22-25, drawn to a method of forming a compatible polymeric matrix on a surface that can be the surface of tissue or cells, classified in class 424, subclass 93.7. |
| Group III | Claim 26, drawn to a cellular material encapsulated with a biocompatible polymeric matrix, classified in class 435, subclass 182. |
| Group IV | Claim 27, drawn to a medical device coated with a polymeric matrix, classified in class 424, subclass 400. |

Applicants hereby elect Group I, Claims 1-21, with traverse.

Groups I, II, III, and IV have been identified to be related as a composition, a method, cellular material, and a medical device, respectively.

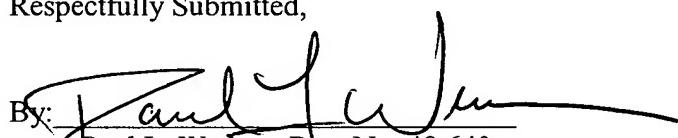
The Office action has stated that searching and examining inventions I-IV together would be a serious burden since the scope of search and considerations relating to applying prior (art) are different for each invention. Applicants respectfully disagree. It is respectfully submitted that all four groups of claims require the key feature of a polymerization accelerator comprising a biocompatible functional group. Notwithstanding the possibility of additionally incorporating components in the composition claims, steps into the method claim, or optional features in the cellular material or medical device claims, the fundamental commonality of the polymerization accelerator comprising a biocompatible functional group dictates that these groups should not be restricted. In view of this commonality, the search for the subject matter of one of these groups will necessitate a search of the subject matter of the other group. No substantial burden is therefore seen in consideration of all four of these groups in a single application.

Conclusion

In view of the above election and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the foregoing is fully responsive to the outstanding Restriction Requirement. Early favorable consideration and notice of allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited. In the event that a phone conference between the Examiner and Applicants' representative would help resolve any issues in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact undersigned at (651) 275-9835.

Respectfully Submitted,

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